From: Felipe Contreras
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/8/02 1:57am
Subject: My opinion

I'm not a technology profesional, nor an important member of any relevant organization, I'm just a young Linux user from Mexico. Anyway, I heard that even my opinion could be important for this matters so here it is.

I started with computers about 10 years ago, I in that moment there was no option for an OS, only Microsoft's DOS, or Windows 3.1. I was influened by videogames and I was very entusiast about doing the mine one, unfortunatedly the best development tool I had was Microsoft's QBasic, and I had not any help to develop a game.

As the time went on I learned more and more, until one day I finally tryied the new operating system for experienced computer users, Linux. Since then I learned a lot of the UNIX systems, and the OpenSource movement. This was a complete new world for me, and withouth knowing it endless posibilites for development were at my hands. I became aware that best of the best in the computer world was in the linux world, and the best, they were working by will in doing this world better, working for giving people like me the posibilities for developing whatever they want.

In my humble opinion comercial companies are just that, as the name says they exist to make money. Also, as far as I know it's much easier to make money doing bad things, inversely proportional. Microsoft, being a company with so much money, I can't think that their main concern is anything else than money, and that they gathered so much that they must have been some things not very good, at least not ethical.

When I became concerned of such thigs, I saw the workings of the world different. If one gets involucred with the Linux world it becomes obvious that Microsoft is evil, and Linux is good. Nobody is perfect, but the intentions of the OpenSource movement are good, while the ones of the Microsoft Corporation, are bad, making money. The OpenSource movement consists of scatered efforts withouth one main organization, at the contrary of Microsoft which is very organized and doesn't live any matter untouched, even with the great power they have, Linux, a hobbie work of some people done at their free time, is getting each time bigger "market". Obviously this means competence to Microsoft and it will not stand with arms crossed, if the resoultion of the DOJ let's them, they'll try to make clear to everyone that Microsoft is better (win over Linux), and their strategies obviously work.

Althought I think that everyone with enought intelect to analize the implications of OpenSource, or at least with tasting the power of it will never return to the propertary and closed environment of the Microsoft's realm, if Microsoft win, some people (like me) might never try Linux.

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Felipe Contreras